



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 02/27/2008

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 2/27/08

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Dunn*	Phelps*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Town Manager Brian Sullivan, Deputy Town Manager Nancy Galkowski, Public Works Director John Bean
 MINUTES of 2/25 approved as corrected. Unanimous.

ART 26 SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL: Sullivan described the difficulties in plowing 10 mi of streets and sidewalk ramps.

Contractors don't have necessary equipment. Equipment too difficult for seasonal workers to operate. Would need at least 4 \$100k vehicles. Unavoidable damage to private property would have to be reimbursed. The Town does not have the financial means. Residents would agitate to add their sidewalks to the list of sidewalks plowed by the town. Bean confirmed these points in detail. He suggested 4 options in order of decreasing cost: 1. Clear sidewalks & ramps & de-ice. 2. Clear sidewalks & ramps & let abutters de-ice. 3. Just clear ramps as streets are plowed.. 4. Just clear ramps but within 48 hrs of storm. Bean will provide detailed cost estimates soon. A lengthy general discussion followed.

5 YEAR PLAN: Sullivan, using a handout, reviewed the latest spreadsheet. He repeated much of what he wrote in his budget statement. Plan assumes no revenue from Symmes except permits. Sullivan promised to provide a detailed review of the trash/recycling revolving fund together with the effectiveness of the new recycling coordinator. He thinks moving health insurance to GIC could reduce costs from \$0 to \$3m. He will press the unions to agree. He says the agreement w/ the unions could specify how & when the Town could leave GIC.

WARRANT ARTICLES: Sullivan provided a handout listing recommendations for appropriations for various warrant articles. Most were the same as FY08 except \$15k for Town water bodies, \$35k for revaluation, \$21733 for classification changes, \$9729 for indemnification \$4500 for the Human Rights Commission, nothing for Minuteman Senior Services, and \$856105 for Retiree Health Insurance. This last to be offset by Medicare Part D reimbursement.

TRANSFER OF OPEB FUNDS TO CRB: CRB can get better rates than Treasurer. Manager will be sure that the Town controls when the funds are used for retiree health care.

BOBs: Too soon.

POBs: Good to have the option. A special committee should make recommendation to exercise the option. Town Meeting should participate in the decision. The law should specify this. Should not borrow too much – 20% of "assets" might be a good cap.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: All but patrolmen are settled for FY08. Libraries & Firemen are settled for FY09.

W&S: No recommendation yet.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND: Will study.

RETIREE BUYOUTS: Newer employees will get smaller buyouts. Problem is not severe. Will develop a liability estimate.

SERVICES TO NON-PROFITS: Has some data & much guesswork. Will report. Getting better data is a "fools errand" unless there is a use for the data.

BUD 4 PERSONNEL: Postponed until discrepancy in health insurance offset could be resolved.

BUD 5 IT: Finances SubCom(Dunn) recommended the budget as printed in the revised sheets received 2/20. He stated that this new department should lead to much more productive town workers as the equipment/software becomes more reliable. A current

project is disaster preparation.

VOTED \$525,813 Unanimous.

BUD 6 COMPTROLLER: Finances SubCom(Dunn) made 2 changes in expenses.

VOTED \$384,443 Unanimous

COMMITTEE Schedule of hearings:

On 3/3 Capital Planning Committee on Capital Budget. Authority to Borrow

On 3/5 Moderator on Warrant timing, Afford House trust Fund, Minuteman Tech

On 3/10 Permanent Town Building Committee on Thompson School, Water Bodies

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$276,706.28

Peter B Howard Secretary 2/28/08 Revised 3/3/08

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 1/28	# 2/4	# 2/20	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
18	5	17	Bylaw Amend 1,1,2, Open Warrant			
27	7	19	Bylaw Amend Afford House Trust			Foskett reported 2/11
20	14	26	Bylaw Amend Snow Removal	2/25		
21	15	27	Bylaw Amend 1,18 Mtg Notices	2/4		Tabled Tosti to discuss w/ BoS
63	39	40	Increase Accidental Death Benefit	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
64	40	41	Extend Benefits	2/4 2/20	2/4	No Action Dunn to write comment.
62	41	42	Pension Adjustments	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
66	43	43	Transfer to OPEB Funds	2/27		ACRB
65	42	43	Transfer OPEB Funds	2/4	2/4	Tabled. Report from Maher, Treasurer hearing
		44	Transfer to Retiree Health Care Fund	2/27		
68	44	45	Borrowing for OPEB	2/11, 2/27		
67	45	46	Pension Obligation Funds	2/11, 2/27		
45	47	48	Positions reclassification	2/27		Phelps to present
43	48	49	Collective Bargaining	2/27		
44	49	50	Future Collective Bargaining			
46	51	52	Budgets			
47	52	53	Capital Budget			Hearing 3/3 8:00
	54	55	Swimming Pool	2/6	2/6	Favorable action \$0
55	55	56	Sewers			
56	56	57	Water			
48	57	58	Rescind authority to borrow			
50	58	59	Minuteman Tech			DeCoursey to schedule
51	59	60	Town Celebrations			Town Man
53	60	61	Committees & Commissions	2/27		hearing if last year approp not OK
		62	TAC Appropriation	2/20	2/20	Fav Action not to exceed \$15000
52	62	63	Miscellaneous	2/27		Town Man
28	63	64	Town Water Bodies	2/27		Hearing in mid-March
70	64	65	Harry Barber Service Program			hearing if last year approp not OK
69	66	66	Local Option Taxes			
72	67	67	Tip Fee Stab Fund			
58	68	68	Tip Fund Money Appropriation	2/6	2/6	No action
73	69	69	Cemetery			
74	70	70	Overlay Reserve Surplus			
75	71	71	Stabilization Fund			
76	72	72	Free Cash			
59	73	73	Medicare Part D Reimbursement	2/6	2/6	No action 9-2
	74	74	CRB Report	2/6 2/11	2/6 2/11	Favorable Action Para 1 & 3 Request not require
57	75	75	Services to Non-Profits	2/6, 2/27	2/6	No report 9-1 Encourage follow through

60	76	76	SPED	2/6	2/6	No action
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VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/11	2/11	10778	
2	Board of Selectmen	2/20	2/20	398558	
3	Town Manager				
4	Personnel				
5	Information Technology	2/27	2/27	525,813	
6	Comptroller	2/27	2/27	384,443	
7	Treasurer				
8	Postage				
9	Assessors				
10	Legal	2/20	2/20	460047	
11	Town Clerk				
12	Registrar of Voters				
13	Parking				
14	Planning				
15	Redevelopment Board				
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/11	2/11	23311	
17	Public Works	2/11	2/11	6831546	15-0-1
17a	Street Lights	2/20	2/20	418893	
18a	Community Safety Admin				
18b	Police				
18c	Fire				
18d	Support				
19	Inspections				
20	Education	2/25			
21	Library	2/20	2/20	1898988	
21b	Veterans				
21c	COA				
22a	Health & Human Services				
23	Retirement				
24	Insurance				
25	Reserve Fund	2/20	2/20	450000	
W&S					
Rec					
Rnk					
COA					
Youth					